Representation of Orissa Government against Election Commission guidelines

553. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has represented against the Election Commission guidelines barring politicians from participating in relief work in cyclone-affected areas;

(b) if so, the relaxations proposed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor keeping in view that officials are often transferred and are not familiar with topography and need help of people's representatives?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The Election Commission has informed that it had received a request from the Government of Orissa for allowing people's representatives like Ministers, MLAs and political functionaries to assist officers in relief and rehabilitation measures in the Cyclone affected areas in the State. The commission while announcing the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies, however, clarified that except relevant Government officers and organisation incharge of the rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, no political functionaries, either of ruling party or otherwise, may be in any way involved in the actual distribution of relief or implementation of any rehabilitation activities.

Restoration of people's faith in judicial system

554. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the principal of rule of law enshrined in our Constitution for judicial and administration has been subverted to suit the manipulators with the result that the people's faith in the judicial administrators is gradually eroding;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to refer this issue to a